

# **Lt. Governor Skillman Announces Delivery of Donation to Statewide Food Bank Network**

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[Commissioner Donahue, Lt. Governor Skillman and Director Hupfer](#)

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Rebecca Skillman,  
Lt. Governor

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J. David Donahue,  
DOC Commissioner

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Kyle Hupfer,  
DNR Director.

Today Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced the delivery of 3,000 pounds of donated venison to food banks across the state through a new pilot program between the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC). In an effort to further manage deer populations in southeastern Indiana and provide job training for inmates, hunters had the opportunity to donate antlerless deer to a DOC-identified processor. DOC is giving the processed deer to Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIsh).

"We launched FIsh earlier this year with the goal of serving the 600,000 people in Indiana that sometimes go without food," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "I am pleased to see FIsh benefiting from this new state relationship and also the collaboration between DNR and DOC to help feed hungry Hoosiers. These donations are much needed and we thank them for their generosity."

FIsh is a statewide network of food banks that links hunger service providers, food producers, and processors from all four corners of the state. Lt. Governor Skillman announced the formation of FIsh in June. This network will more effectively identify and coordinate the services to Indiana's almost 600-thousand people that need food. FIsh was created with a cumulative two year \$100,000 contribution from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), Office of Rural Affairs, and Family and Social Services Administration. These dollars are to be matched by funding from the private sector. FIsh staff will ensure that all DNR-DOC processed venison will go directly to Hoosiers in need.

The DNR-DOC program is based on a similar effort in Iowa. Hunters in 10 southeastern counties donated antlerless deer to the DOC via specified processors. The DOC collected and processed the deer as part of an inmate training initiative.

"This is a great opportunity for our inmates to learn the skill of meat processing and to give back to our local communities," said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of Indiana Department of Correction.

In mid-November, hunters donated the venison in exchange for a coupon from DNR for a replacement antlerless deer license at a reduced price.

"I am extremely pleased with this initiative to help reduce the growing number of deer/car collisions, the amount of crop damage, and the damage to ornamental trees and shrubs," said Kyle Hupfer, DNR Director. "Because of DOC's willingness to partner with us we had an outlet for the excess number of deer that were harvested and are able to provide food those that go hungry in Indiana."

More information about these programs visit, [www.FeedingIndianasHungry.org](http://www.FeedingIndianasHungry.org) and [www.IN.gov/dnr/](http://www.IN.gov/dnr/).

## **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers.

The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.